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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,602	09/15/2003	Pai Yung Lin	446ABD	8557

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EXAMINER

GRAHAM, GARY K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,602

Applicant(s)

LIN, PAI YUNG

Examiner

Gary K. Graham

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20030915.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 4, line 3, there is no antecedent basis for “said at least one side flange”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kengo (JP publication 2002-119452).

Art Unit: 1744

The publication to Kengo discloses the invention as is claimed, including a mop device (fig.4) to engage a ground surface and having a handle (not numbered but shown) with a support element (22) attached to a bottom thereof. An abrasive surface member (10) including a resilient element (18,20) with upper and lower cover members (16a,16b) joined together via a coupling element (fig.3) to form swellings (14) and depressions (12).

With respect to claim 2, the cover members show edges that appear as flanges that extend beyond the resilient element and are foldable to engage the support element. Nothing would prevent such folding.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kengo (JP publication 2002-119452) in view of Smith (US patent 6,745,434).

The publication to Kengo discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the flanges of the cover members including a notch to define flaps to facilitate engaging the support element.

The patent to Smith discloses (figs. 12,13) attachment of cleaning floor cloth (10C) to a support element (6A,8A) which is a conventional sponge mop. The floor cloth includes flanges with a notch therein to define flaps (22,22A) such that the floor cloth can engage and attach to a support element (6A). Hook and loop fastening structure (26) are provided on an upper surface of the floor cloth to secure the floor cloth onto the support structure.

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to notch the flanges of the cleaning cloth of Kengo, as suggested by Smith, to enable wrapping of the cloth around the support element to provide a secure connection thereto while accommodating the handle.

Claims 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kengo (JP publication 2002-119452) in view of Policicchio et al (US patent application publication 2003/0126709).

The patent to Kengo discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the cover member including a securing device attached to the side flange to engage the support element, the detachably attaching means including a coupling device on the upper cover sheet to secure to a coupling device on the support element.

The patent to Policicchio disclose using hook and loop fastening couplers or adhesives, one on the supporting element (24) and one on the upper cover sheet or attaching layer (403) to couple the abrasive surface member (fig.4b) to the supporting element (see paragraphs 275, 277, 279, etc).

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to employ couplers to attach the abrasive surface member to the supporting element, as clearly suggested by Policicchio, to enable easy replacement of the surface member when necessary.

With respect to claims 4 and 6, when couplers are attached to the cover member for securing it with the support element, it will be attached to both upper and lower cover members.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kengo (JP publication 2002-119452) in view of Policicchio et al (US patent application publication 2003/0126709) as applied to claim 7 above and further in view of Smith (US patent 6,745,434).

The patents to Kengo and Policicchio disclose all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of a sponge member on the bottom of the support element residing between the abrasive surface member and a supporting base.

The patent to Smith discloses all of the above recited subject matter, including a convention sponge mop that includes a sponge on a supporting base.

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to attach the modified floorcloth of Kengo to an existing sponge mop, as clearly suggested by Smith, to enhance the cleaning capability of an existing sponge mop.

Art Unit: 1744

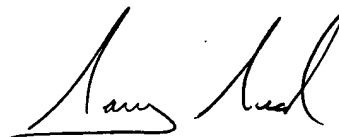
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary K. Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-1274. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys J. Corcoran can be reached on 571-272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Gary K Graham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

GKG
16 October 2006